



Position Description Sierra Corps Forestry Fellowship

Position Title: Ecological Reserves Project Lead

Host Site: CSU Chico Ecological Reserves

Site Supervisor: Rhianna Dutra
Ecological Reserves Project Manager
Registered Professional Forester #3098

Work Commitment: Sierra Corps Fellows are passionate and committed to the mission of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, Sierra Corps Program, and their Host Site(s). Fellows make a full-time commitment to serve a nonprofit organization or public agency in the Sierra Nevada. **Positions begin in January or February 2021. Time Commitment: 10-12 months, 40hrs/week.**

Position Location: Chico, CA: Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER), Butte Creek Ecological Preserve (BCEP), and contract project sites. The expectation is the position will report to BCCER most of the time and work will be split between BCCER and contract work in the surrounding community.

Organization Description: Our mission is to work to preserve critical habitat and to provide a natural area for environmental research and education. The CSU, Chico Ecological Reserves expanded our stewardship crew work in 2019 to allow for grant and contract work to be conducted outside of our 4,000+ acres of ecological reserves. As we grow this program we are looking for capacity to lead projects within our watershed and the Sierra Foothills throughout our region. Under direct supervision from our Ecological Reserves Project Manager, the fellow will fill a leadership role in developing, implementing, tracking, and reporting on ecological stewardship projects that we obtain.

Our community has suffered from devastating fires. The Camp Fire in 2018 impacted tens of thousands of lives and destroyed over 150,000 acres of wildland habitat. Our community recognizes the need for increased wildland management and stewardship, and we are expanding our work to help fill this demand. Through our connection with CSU, Chico and the stewardship research we conduct on our lands, community members look towards us to complete ecologically sensitive projects and provide leadership that can be replicated by private land owners and contractors throughout our region.

Position Description:

Under the supervision of the Ecological Reserves Project Manager, responsibilities include both programmatic elements and maintenance. The fellow will directly report to our Registered

Professional Forester and Project Manager. They will also have the resources of our Field Coordinator who is a professionally trained botanist, wildland firefighter, and ecologist. The fellow will have access to all our trainings including all NWCG Wildland Firefighter II trainings, type 6 fire engine, hand tools, power tools, first aid/CPR, etc. Once trained, the fellow will have access to all our equipment, tools, and supplies. The fellow will have access to our offices, computers, and any office supplies needed to perform their work.

The fellow will have the unique opportunity to work within the Big Chico Creek Watershed for most of the projects they help lead. This watershed is home to significant diversity of both plant and animal life with 140 wildlife species, listed at the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve alone. Thirteen percent of the wildlife and 27 percent of the fish that are known or expected to occur on the Reserve are federal or state listed species. This plant and animal life, along with the watershed's considerable resources of water, farmland, timber, and recreational opportunity, enriches the lives of both those living in the watershed and downstream users. Many project sites will be located within a two FMP's (Forest Management Plan) that together cover over 10,000 acres of the watershed, which serves/impacts over 120,000 rural and urban Californians.

Programmatic Elements:

- Serve as first point of contact with project sponsors and ensure clear communication of contract expectations, safety, and accountability
- Assist in designing projects on the Reserve and contracted projects
- Lead crew work for projects
- Assist in developing and implementing training for the crew
- Responsible for ensuring crew safety and project regulatory compliance
- Develop and implement tracking and reporting to measure the completion of projects

Maintenance Elements:

- Responsible for ensuring proper tool maintenance for contract and project work
- Assist with shop inventory, organization, and protocol development
- Carry out vegetation management on the Reserve or in surrounding community in ecologically sensitive areas using a variety of tools
- Performs field work including, but not limited to, invasive plant eradication; fence repair; road and trail maintenance using a variety of hand and power tools
- Assists with planning and implementing pile burns and prescribed burns
- Assist in facilities maintenance and minor repairs

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Forestry, Environmental Science, or other related field
- Knowledge of CEQA/NEPA regulations and documentation
- At least 2 years of experience with natural resource management, post education
- Professional experience **leading** crews or teams in field work
- Familiarity with a variety of hand tools including chainsaws, brush cutters and small equipment
- Ability to work with diverse partners and stakeholders and facilitate productive decision making
- Strong desire to work in a forest health related career, ideally in the Sierra
- Ability to commit to full term of Fellowship position
- Experience performing duties similar to those described above
- An understanding of conservation of natural and open space resources
- Ability to communicate well with a wide variety of constituents including volunteers, student staff and interns, visitors to the reserves, faculty and staff
- Experience implementing and ensuring safety compliance
- Manage time and complete tasks independently
- Possess a valid California driver's license (or willing to get one), and a good driving record

- Participation in the DMV Employer Pull Notice Program (driving record) and fingerprinting

Desired Qualifications:

- 2 years combined experience in:
 - forest health monitoring and assessment
 - conservation planning
 - project management
 - environmental analysis and research
- Knowledge of native and non-native plant species
- Familiarity with a variety of hand tools including chainsaws, brush cutters and small equipment
- Defensive Driver Certification
- Wildland Fire Chainsaw Training S-212
- Basic Fire Fighter II or equivalent
- Strong desire to work in a forest health related career, ideally in the Sierra
- Passion for conservation of the Sierra

Additional Requirements:

- Sedentary and physical labor
- Capacity/willingness to complete other duties as needed

Compensation:

- \$16-\$19 per hour DOE
- Employer-provided health insurance benefits available if needed
- \$1500 training and education stipend to use during Fellowship term
- Paid vacation time accrued each pay period
- Paid sick leave accrued each pay period
- Paid Holidays

Host Site Website: www.csuchico.edu/bccer/

How to Apply:

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled; however, the priority application deadline is **Sunday, December 13 at 5:00pm PST**. To apply, please submit your resume, a cover letter that summarizes your interest in the Sierra Corps Program AND a technical writing sample no more than 1 page in length via email with subject line "Sierra Corps Application" to Nicole Lutkemuller, Program Director at nicole@sierranevadaalliance.org. You must also complete the online application which can be found [here](#) or on the Sierra Nevada Alliance website: <https://sierranevadaalliance.org/sierra-corps-application>

To be considered in the priority round you must submit this application along with your cover letter, resume, and writing sample by 5:00pm PST on December 13, 2020.